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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 13 SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER, 1931 NUMBER 11

An Avian Butcher Shop

Looking down over the edge of a cliff near Benicia on March 15, 1931, I flushed one of my nesting Horned Owls from her two young which had hatched out not much over a week previously. One, larger than the other, had a few pin feathers on him, while the other was still in down. But the accumulation of meat in the nest was interesting, for the two little fellows were quite well supplied. Besides the two young owlets the nest contained one whole young jack rabbit about eight inches long, another young jack rabbit quite a little larger, part of still another apparently full-grown jack rabbit, two whole mud hens (American Coots), and the hind quarters of a duck. The latter, from my position about fifteen feet above the nest, appeared to be a hen Spoonbill or Shoveller Duck.

While I was making this investigation the adult bird which I had frightened from the nest snapped its bill at me from a tree in the canyon below. A pair of California Jays made known their anxiety by hopping excitedly about the owl, though for some reason they made no clamor such as one would expect from them.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California. September 20, 1931.

A Winter Morning in a Santa Clara County Vineyard

Do birds enjoy foraging among the grape vines? I spent a Sunday morning finding out. Decidedly yes.

There were flocks of Audubon Warblers, Green-backed Goldfinches, Linnets, Western Bluebirds, Robins and a few Flickers. I watched Audubon Warblers pecking at the bunches of grapes and on examination found fresh holes in the old grapes. Most of the birds were restless and not feeding.

A large leafless fig tree at the edge of the vineyard was covered with Cedar Waxwings but at no time did I see any of them down among the vines.

In the surrounding shrubbery were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Spotted Towhees and Dwarf Hermit Thrushes. These did not spread into the vines but Golden-crowned, Nuttall and Gambel Sparrows did, noticeably onto the ground beneath the vines and not into them.

One California Thrasher made himself quite at home. Though I did not see him eating from the bunches of grapes he busily picked morsels from the ground beneath them.

In an old water course, running through the vineyard, now filled with long grass and baccharis Western Larks, Nuttall Sparrows and California Towhees were seen.

No old nests were found in the leafless vines.

Cornelia C. Pringle, San Francisco, California. September 16, 1931.

October Field Trip was taken on Sunday the 11th, to Lake Merced, San Francisco. In spite of a dark, cold, cloudy morning, forty-one enthusiastic bird-minded people were on hand, eager for what the day might bring forth in an

ornithological way. The report of the discovery of a Black Rail in this locality a short time previous to our visit, probably added to the eagerness of most of those present. No Black Rail could be found this day.

Starting from Junipero Serra Boulevard and following down the canyon towards the lake, Anna Hummingbirds and Fox Sparrows were the first to attract attention. The usual lone Burrowing Owl was sharing his hillside with three companions, a very pleasant surprise to our group. Farther along in the pines and cypresses, Slender-billed, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches furnished the thrill of the day. These species are seldom found in San Francisco.

On the lagoon at the foot of the canyon were three young Pied-billed Grebes still showing the white streaks on the head and neck.

Arriving at the lake, an albino Ruddy Duck was discovered among a raft of "Ruddies" which were resting on the water. Six Cinnamon Teal were noted on another part of the lake. Two Virginia Rail were flushed from the tules.

In almost the exact center of the larger lake, large numbers of Gulls are always present, some bathing, most of them resting. Why they always choose this area rather than any other, has always been a mystery. Can someone give the reason?

Three Barn Swallows still lingered over the smaller lake, overstaying their summer visit by three weeks. A large flock of Tri-colored Red-winged Blackbirds flying out from the tules was a pleasing sight.

The gradual draining of the lakes has exposed a shore line which accounts for the seven species of shore birds noted.

In the day's list are twenty species which may be classed as winter visitants to this locality. Three summer visitants and four migrants were noted. A total of seventy-three species were observed:

Loon (sp. ?)
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Farallon Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
American Bittern
Mallard
Pintail Duck
Cinnamon Teal
Canvas-back Duck
Lesser Scaup
Surf Scoter
Ruddy Duck
Cooper Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
California Quail
Virginia Rail
Coot
Killdeer
Black-bellied Plover
Wilson Snipe
Least Sandpiper
Red-backed Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Northern Phalarope
Western Gull
California Gull
Bonaparte Gull
Burrowing Owl
Anna Hummingbird
Kingfisher
Red-shafted Flicker
Say Phoebe
Black Phoebe
Western Flycatcher
Barn Swallow
Chickadee
Bush-tit
Slender-billed Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Pygmy Nuthatch
Wren-tit
Winter Wren
Bewick Wren
Marsh Wren
Robin
Hermit Thrush
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pipit
Shrike
Hutton Vireo
Myrtle Warbler
Audubon Warbler
Townsend Warbler
Yellow-throat
Pileolated Warbler
Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Tricolored Red-wing
Brewer Blackbird
Purple Finch
Linnet
Pine Siskin
Green-backed Goldfinch
Spotted Towhee
Fox Sparrow
Junco
Nuttall Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Chas. A. Bryant, historian.

Saturday Afternoon Trip: Our first Saturday afternoon trip was taken on October 17th, to Lake Temescal, Oakland, with Mr. F. M. Jencks as leader. Ten members attended, three of whom have not been able to go on the Sunday trips.

A total of thirty birds were observed as follows: Mallard; Ruddy Duck; Redtail and Sparrow Hawks; California Quail; Coot; Anna Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Willow Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; California Jay; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Slender-billed Nuthatch; Wren-tit; Bewick

Wren; Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Audubon Warbler; Brewer Blackbird; Green-backed Goldfinch; Brown and Spotted Towhees; Junco; Golden-crowned, Nuttall and Song Sparrows.

Laura A. Stephens, historian.

Late Dates for Summer Visitants

Western Flycatchers	Chain of Lakes	October 3rd.	Mrs. A. B. Stephens
Barn Swallows	Lake Merced	October 11th.	Audubon Field Trip
Pileolated Warblers	Lake Merced	October 11th.	Mrs. A. B. Stephens

Early Dates for Winter Visitants

Varied Thrushes	Berkeley	Oct. 7th.	Mrs. Amelia Allen
Dwarf Hermit Thrushes	Scout Camp, Oakland	Sept. 27th.	Robert Taylor
Golden-crowned Kinglets	Fairfax to Ross	Oct. 4th.	Chas. A. Bryant
Ruby-crowned Kinglets	Scout Camp, Oakland	Sept. 27th.	Robert Taylor
American Pipits	Dumbarton Bridge	Sept. 8th.	Robert Taylor
Townsend Warblers	Scout Camp, Oakland	Sept. 6th.	Brighton C. Cain

Swallows Sent by Plane

Enormous flocks of swallows on their way south were overtaken by premature winter temperatures in Austria and thousands of them were forced down and compelled to take refuge in houses, garages and barns. Bird lovers in Vienna sent out requests to the country and town people to protect and feed the birds while preparations were made to send them into Italy by airplane. Consignment after consignment, consisting of about 100 birds in light wooden cases, were transported on the regular Vienna-Venice passenger planes. Funds for the purpose were supplied to the Austrian Tierschutz Verein by bird lovers. (Clipping sent by Mrs. Carl R. Smith.)

Book Notices: "Why Birds Sing," by Jacques Delemain. Here is a book that combines good popular natural history with the Gallic literary style at its best—a combination with which the English-reading public has already been made familiar in translations of Fabre and Maeterlinck. It is a story made by a French scientist, the notes for which he made when he was a soldier in the front line trenches. "It is at once a book about birds, a book revealing a new aspect of life at the front, and the work of a man so interested and curious about life, that not even war could dim his zest and vision." Some of the birds mentioned are species unknown to America; more are familiar to England and the United States. "It doesn't matter 'why birds sing.' We shall not have in our lifetime a nature book with a happier title, nor one crammed with more patient observation, so well set down." Coward McCann, $2.50.

The American Ornithological Union Check List of North American Birds. New (Fourth) Edition. Entirely rewritten and revised. Contains an appendix explaining changes in nomenclature and listing additional species not currently accepted. Cloth bound, price $4.00, post paid, obtainable from W. L. McAtee, Cherrydale, Va.

Check List of Birds of The World, Vol. 1. James Lee Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College. The first volume includes the ostriches, rheas, casuaries, emus, apteryxes, tinamous, penguins, loons, grebes, albatrosses, diving petrels, shearwaters, petrels, herons, flamingos, swans, geese, ducks, American vultures, hawks and falcons.

Mr. Peters has followed the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. It is stated in the preface that the order of familiar and higher groups followed in this work is essentially the same as that proposed by Wetmore in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum 76, Article 24, 1930. Cloth bound, price $3.50, obtainable from Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Audubon Notes

November Meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p. m., room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Joseph Mailliard of the California Academy of Sciences. Subject: "Recollections of Birds in Former Years dating back as far as 1872."

November Field Trip will be taken Sunday, the 15th. An experiment will be tried in dividing the group. One group to start from Fairfax and work back to Ross by way of Bon Tempe meadow, Alpine and Lagunitas Lakes, down the Fish Gulch Road past Phoenix Lake to Ross. The other group to start from Ross and work back to Fairfax by the above route reversed. Leaders will be chosen after the groups have formed. Buy round trip ticket to Fairfax or Ross, 60c. Take 8:15 a. m. Sausalito ferry. Bring luncheon and canteens. Distance about five miles. In case of heavy rain, trip will be taken on the following Sunday.

Saturday Field Trip will be taken on the 14th to Mt. View Cemetery, end of Piedmont Avenue, Oakland. San Francisco members take one o'clock Key Route boat and Piedmont train, get off at Pleasant Valley Station. Brighton C. Cain, leader.

Christmas Census will be taken on Sunday, December 20th, the Sunday following the regular trip. All those wishing to help in this work, please send name to Chas. A. Bryant, 150 Franklin Street, San Francisco, not later than December 12th, in order that arrangements may be made.

Mr. J. V. DeLaveaga died October 2nd.

October Meeting: The 176th regular meeting was held on October 8th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with forty-one members and guests present. President Brighton C. Cain presiding.

Mr. Emerson A. Stoner of Benicia was elected to membership.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Chas. A. Bryant: September 20th, Lake Merced, Black Rail.

Brighton C. Cain: September 27th, Strawberry Canyon, Black-headed Grosbeak; October 2nd, Scout Camp, Oakland, Hermit Warbler.

Arthur Myer: October 3rd, Chain of Lakes, three Pygmy Nuthatches.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith: October 4th, San Anselmo, Yellow Warbler; Lansdale, Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Mrs. A. B. Stephens: September 14 to 22, Lake Merced, five Pectoral Sandpipers; September 14 and 15, Solitary Sandpiper; September 20th, Yellow, Pileolated and five Black-throated Gray Warblers; October 3rd, Chain of Lakes, Fox Sparrows and Western Flycatchers.

Miss Selma Werner: October 6th, Lake Merced, Say Phoebe singing.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. George Tonkin, U. S. Game Protector, Bureau of Biological Survey, who spoke on "Migratory Birds and Federal Laws."

Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.